

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 61-86 have been canceled. Claims 87-92 have been added. If any fees are required for entry of this Amendment, please charge our Deposit Account number 03-3415.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claim 86 under 35 USC § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has further rejected applicants' claims 61, 70 78-80 and 85 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Uchida, et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2001/0039560) published patent application in view of the Mousseau, et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2001/0005864) published patent application. Claims 67, 75 and 84 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the latter references taken in conjunction with the Watanabe, et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034226) published patent application.

Applicants have canceled claims 61-86, thereby rendering the above rejections moot. To the extent the rejections are believed applicable to newly added claims 87-92, they are respectively traversed.

Applicants newly added independent claim 87 has been formulated to clearly recite an electronic mail providing system which comprises a mail server (e.g., 600), a WWW server (e.g., 300) and an output apparatus (e.g., 200), wherein the mail server comprises first receiving means for receiving an electronic mail, determining means for determining whether or not the received electronic mail can be displayed on a destination device of the received electronic mail, transferring means for transferring the received electronic mail to the WWW server if the determining means determines that the destination device can not display the received electronic mail, identification code receiving means for receiving, from the WWW server, an identification code for identifying the transferred electronic mail, and notifying

means notifying the received identification code to the destination device, and wherein the WWW server comprises storing means for storing an address of the destination device in correspondence with the identification code, address receiving means for receiving, from the mail server, the address of the destination device, included in header information of the electronic mail, and saving means for saving the identification code corresponding to the received address, in correspondence with the transferred electronic mail, and further wherein the output apparatus comprises identification code inputting means for inputting an identification code in response to user's operation, identification code transmitting means for transmitting the input identification code to the WWW server, second electronic mail receiving means for receiving, from the WWW server, the electronic mail corresponding to the transmitted identification code, and display means for displaying the electronic mail.

Independent claim 89 claims the WWW server recited in claim 87. Independent claim 91 recites a control method for the server of claim 89 and independent claim 92 a recording medium computer readably storing a program for causing a computer to execute the control method of claim 91.

The above constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. The Uchida, et al. reference discloses an electronic mail system having a mail server 100, a mail transmitting terminal 240 and a mail receiving terminal 250. In this system, the terminal 240 transmits electronic mail containing destination data and broadcast distribution data to the mail server 100. The mail server 100 then transmits to each destination terminal 250 via the internet 210 the title of the electronic mail and an access code for accessing the mail. If a destination terminal desires the main body of the electronic mail, it transmits an electronic message to the server 100 and the server transmits this information.

It is evident that the system of the Uchida, et al. reference does not teach or suggest anything that equates to applicants' claimed invention. In particular, the mail server 100 in the Uchida, et al. reference does not include "a determining means for determining whether or not the received electronic mail can be displayed on a destination device of the received electronic mail." Nor does it include "transferring means for transferring the received electronic mail to the WWW server if the determining means determines that the destination device can not display the received electronic mail." Additionally, it does not include identification code receiving means for receiving, from the WWW server, an identification code for identifying the transferred electronic mail," nor "notifying means for notifying the received identification code to the destination device."

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Uchida, et al. reference of a WWW server which has a "storing means for storing an address of the destination device in correspondence with the identification code" and a "saving means for saving the identification code corresponding to the received address, in correspondence with the transferred electronic mail." Nor does the reference teach an output apparatus comprising "identification code transmitting means for transmitting the input identification code to the WWW server and second electronic mail receiving means for receiving, from the WWW server the electronic mail corresponding to the transmitted identification code."

Applicant's independent claims 87, 89, 91 and 92, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite one or more of these features, thus patentably distinguish over the Uchida, et al. reference.

The Examiner has acknowledged that the Uchida, et al reference does not teach "determining means adapted to determine whether or not a destination device of said

electronic mail can output the information.” However, the Examiner then cites the Mousseau, et al. reference as disclosing a “determining means adapted to determine whether or not a destination device of said electronic mail information can display the electronic mail information” and concludes that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill . . . to modify Uchida by determining whether or not a destination device of said electronic mail can display information as taught by Mousseau so that the user can select an alternative device to view the received information if the users first device cannot view the received information.”

The Examiner’s above interpretation of what the Mousseau, et al reference teaches is believed to be overly broad and has no meaning unless viewed in the context of the specific system disclosed in the Mousseau, et al. reference. When the Mousseau, et al. reference is viewed in such context, i.e. in terms of the specific system disclosed, it is not at all evident how the redirection mechanism taught in the Mousseau, et al system could or would be used to modify the electronic mail system of the Uchida, et al. reference.

However, even assuming, arguendo, that such a modification could be made, applicants submit that it would not result in the system of the claimed invention, i.e., a system which utilizes the combination of a mail server, a WWW server, a user location and identification code information, as described above and claimed. Applicants thus further submit that applicants’ independent claims 87, 89, 91 and 92, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the combination of the Uchida, et al. and Mousseau, et al. references. The Watanabe, et al. reference adds nothing to the Uchida, et al. and Mousseau, et al. references to change this conclusion.

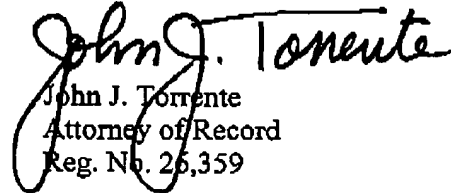
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants’ claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims

is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P. C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
T (212) 790-9200


John J. Torrente
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 26,359